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**FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS VIOLENT PRIOR FELON FOR HOME
INVASIONS AND ARMED ROBBERIES IN TRI-STATE AREA**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, MARK J. MERSHON, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and JAMES H. LAWRENCE, the Commissioner of the Nassau County Police Department, announced that late Wednesday, a federal jury in Manhattan convicted ROBERT SPEED of charges related to a seven-year spree of violent robberies and burglaries that he committed with his co-conspirators throughout the tri-state area from 1995 through 2002.

According to the evidence at trial, SPEED, previously convicted of an armed robbery in 1987, was a core member of an armed and violent robbery crew (the "Speed Robbery Crew") that, after breaking into homes at night, bound, gagged and terrorized their victims, including children home alone, and that robbed businesses and restaurants at gunpoint in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. During the course of their criminal activity, the Speed Robbery Crew stole millions of dollars in cash and jewelry. SPEED and his crew members fenced their stolen goods through an accomplice jeweler operating a business on 47th Street in Manhattan, according to the evidence at trial. The residential neighborhoods which SPEED and his crew targeted for robberies, according to the evidence, included Laurel Hollow, Muttontown, Melville, Bay Shore and Patchogue on Long Island, as well as Darien, Connecticut and Warren Township, New Jersey.

"Robert Speed and the Speed Robbery Crew terrorized our community and have now been brought to justice for their crimes," said Mr. GARCIA. "The federal government and our partners in local law enforcement will continue to work together to stop violent crews that commit crimes in multiple jurisdictions."

SPEED was arrested on January 31, 2002 by the Nassau County Police Department after his DNA was found on a ski mask that he left behind at a burglary in Jericho, New York.

The charges on which SPEED was convicted include conspiracy, racketeering, selling stolen property, and using firearms during crimes of violence. The convictions collectively carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. The conviction of using a firearm during a crime of violence carries a mandatory minimum sentence of seven years' imprisonment consecutive to any other sentence imposed. SPEED is scheduled to be sentenced on February 6, 2006 by United States District Judge P. KEVIN CASTEL, who presided over the trial.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative efforts of the FBI and the Nassau County Police Department and thanked law enforcement officials in the police departments of Suffolk County, New York, Warren, New Jersey, and Darien, Connecticut for their assistance in the investigation, arrest and prosecution of this dangerous individual.

Assistant United States Attorneys BRIAN D. COAD and REED MICHAEL BRODSKY are in charge of the prosecution.

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